

C27

An Assessment Of Likely Events Ref "C27"

Our society is in crisis on a number of fronts. A growing social conflict around the national question; the economy in decline; Southern Africa conflict unresolved; international opposition are the main areas that point to the likely development. It is emphasized that attention is drawn to certain possible developments so that we must be aware of the factors that may have a bearing on our opposition to apartheid and economic exploitation.

1. The National Question

The State must continue to attempt to resolve the social conflict, so as to create stability & confidence in the regime, by illusions of power sharing with the oppressed. It must broaden its social base by cooption of sections of the oppressed and, further shifting its power base from the landowners and white labour to the owners of capital, but at the same time it has to drive home the message that the social conflict can only be resolved within the parameters it prescribes - the fabric of the existing social system.

On the other hand the struggles of the oppressed to resolve the National Question must escalate. The balance of power is slowly shifting in favour of the oppressed. Thus the social conflict must grow. We indicate some points of conflict without further motivation.

- (i) Tricameral Parliament. The integration of coloured and Indian middle classes, and later possibly also urban African middle classes, into the oppressive state must grow. So we shall see growing conflict between those who support the regime and the mass of the oppressed at all the many levels the tricameral parliament operates.
- (ii) Black Local Authorities Opposition to Community Councils must escalate and take various forms: Public protest; protest marches; boycotts, stayans, etc.
- (iii) Local Government The control of Hospital, Education, Social Services by the new local authorities must give rise to conflicts at these levels. The Houses of Representatives + of Delegates are likely to run into difficulties at these levels.
- (iv) Education The imposition of inferior education, education for enslavement, and the inability to provide education universally, particularly in the African Community, must be a time bomb.
- (v) Relocation of People The forced + coerced removal of African people to resettlement camps, the homelands and the so called independent states must continue to be a serious problem.
- (vi) Repression + Detention. This must continue for reasons given in opening paragraph.
- (vii) White Farmers + Low Level White Manpower. The shift in the state's social base away from these groups must continue to generate conflict at this level and inability of the regime

∴ to meet the aspirations of coloured and Indian Middle class.

2. The Economy.

The rate of growth of the per capita income must continue to decline over the long term with the result that living standards of whites must decline and black hardship must increase. In short the economic base for resolving the social conflict is collapsing. Over the short term also weakness in the gold price + value of the Rand must add to the balance of payments problems, rising inflation, decline in investment capital with consequent decline in growth of industrial production with large scale unemployment as an attempt to correct economic ills. Over the long term here lies the essential weakness of the South Africa situation. In the short term some of the points of conflict that may arise are:

(i) Unemployment. Resultant conflict a factory shop floor + in community

(ii) Increase in Cost of living. Subsidies on essential commodities will probably be cut back. Poverty levels must increase, decline in living standards, must undermine confidence in ability of Government to rule, both locally and abroad.

(iii) Housing, Rents lots and inability to provide housing or reasonable rented accommodation must become even more serious

(iv) Electricity - other Services. Lots must increase + how failure to provide.

(v) Relocation of Industries to homelands - new local authorities to give an economic base must become costly and disruptive.

(vi) Rural poverty & migration Rural poverty must increase because of rising costs, the shift in social base to entrepreneurial class. Relocation of industries, ~~not~~ ~~abolished~~ as well as ~~the~~ industrial growth in certain areas at expense of others must lead to migration, ~~the~~ removals etc.

(vii) Health & Other Services Here cutbacks are closely taking place ~~and~~ and must continue to do so. Insecurity for such workers and inadequate provision for population.

(viii) Security Services - These must continue to be a drain on resources + must add to growing conflict.

(ix) Township Uprisings The above, and other issues, must fuel township dissatisfaction and uprisings.

3. The Southern Africa Conflict

Attempts to stabilize the South Africa situation must prove the dubious benefits provided by South Africa to neighbouring States is an attempt to firmly tie them to Pretoria & control their independence and direction of development. South Africa may continue to be the vehicle for foreign control through regulating Capital Investment, commodity prices and security of these states.

Conflict shall arise around the following

- (i) Army A growing army with conscription of colored + Indian youth + recruitment of African youth. These must strive to win the hearts and minds of the people but will also be involved in conflict situations in the townships and outside our borders.
- (ii) Police Growing police presence in townships and rural areas engaged in so called counter insurgency activities. Clearly a growing conflict with communities may arise
- (iii) Security Service - General division of resources into coordinated security services to maintain the go and firm control of subcontinent by Pretoria
- (iv) Conscription - Mounting conflict here
- (v) Armed Conflict Pretoria agreements in Southern Africa (Nkombe + the like) would probably result in growing ^{internal} armed conflict with an internal base, with development as in the early 1960's.

4. International Opposition

It is becoming more and more clear to international Capitalism (as well as the local breed) that unless the growing conflict in South Africa + hence in Southern Africa is resolved that ultimately fundamental changes must take place which will threaten their interest in this part of the world + hence change the balance of forces. Hence

(i) Opposition to Apartheid. Further isolation of regime to influence it to change. Also opposition to attempt its collapse.

(ii) Alliance with Apartheid. Use of a growing tie with South Africa through technology, capital and the expertise as blackmail to bring about certain social liberties to stabilise the capitalist base.

(iii) Internal Armed Conflict. International opposition may also lead to growing armed conflict with an internal base.

(iv) Armed Conflict in Namibia, Angola etc. In an attempt to maintain its position South Africa may be sucked further into these conflicts.

21/1/85

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Collection Number: AK2117

DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: **Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand**

Location: **Johannesburg**

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